Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 00802 170421Z ACTION VO-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609 USLO PEKING INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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DEPT PASS EA/PRCM

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: CVIS, CGEN

SUBJECT: CANADIAN - PRC AGREEMENT ON NIV'S

- 1. CANADIAN COMMISSION OFFICER HERE (CAVANAUGH-WOOD) INFORMED CONGEN OF DETAILS NEW AGREEMENT REACHED WITH PRC ON PROCESSING PROSPECTIVE NIV APPLICANTS. MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE WAS PRC AGREEMENT TO ALLOW INTERVIEWS OF NIV APPLICANTS IN CANTON PROVINCE AND PEKING MUNICIPALITY.
- 2. NEW CANADIAN NIV PROCEDURES FOR PRC APPLICANTS WILL WORK AS FOLLOWS:
- (A) RELATIVE IN CANADA WILL APPLY TO LOCAL IMMIGRATION OFFICE ON BEHALF OF PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT FURNISHING NAME AND ADDRESS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE.
- (B) PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS FORWARDED TO CANADIAN COMMISSION HONG KONG WHICH CHECKS NAME AGAINST IV RECORDS. NAME OF APPLICANT AND APPLICATION FORM THEN SENT TO CTS WITH LETTER INFORMING THAT COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER CASE CLOSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF APPLICATION NOT ACTED UPON WITHIN NINE MONTHS. (THIS IS DONE BECAUSE ISSUANCE AUTHORIZATION IS VALID ONLY FOR ONE YEAR).

(C) THOSE APPLICATIONS ACTED UPON ARE RETURNED BY CTS TO EMBASSY. (APPLICANTS IN CANTON HAVE THEIR CASES FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO

COMMISSION IN HONG KONG BY CTS KWANGTUN EQUIVALENT, KTS). EMBASSY (OR COMMISSION) WILL DECIDE WHICH CASES THEY WILL INTERVIEW. AT LEAST INITALLY THE CANADIANS PLAN TO INTERVIEW AS MANY AS POSSSIBLE.

- (D) NIV INTERVIEWS WILL BE SCHEDULED IN PEKING AND CANTON IN MUCH SAME WAY AS IV APPLICANTS WITH CTS PROVIDING LISTS OF PERSONS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS, ETC.
- 2. QUESTION OF INTERVIEWS FOR PERSONS IN OTHER AREAS OF PRC AROSE BUT IT WAS LEFT TO BE HANDLED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, WITH CANADIANS COUNTERING MFA OBJECTIONS RE DISTANCE AND INCONVENIENCE IN BRINGING PEOPLE LONG DISTANCES, WITH OFFER TO SEND CONOFFS ANYWHERE IN PRC TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS. CANADIANS CERTAIN MFA WILL NOT TAKE UP THEIR OFFER.
- 3. CANADIANS HOPE NEW SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE SOME BADLY NEEDED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES TO THEIR NIV PROCEDURES IN PRC REMOVING THE "AD HOCERY" OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. MOST OF ALL THEY HOPE TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THOSE INSTANCES WHERE EMBASSY UNEXPECTEDLY PRESENTED WITH STACK OF PASSPORTS AND NIV APPLICATIONS BY CTS AND FACED WITH SITUATION OF HAVING TO PROCESS THEM BEFORE APPLICANT'S EXIT PERMIT EXPIRES, AND THUS AVOID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING SANDBAGGED INTO ISSUING NIV'S TO OBVIOUS INTENDING IMMIGRANTS BY PRESSURE FROM RELATIVES AND THEIR MP'S IN CANADA.

4. CANADIANS INFORM US THEY HAVE YET TO PROCESS ANYONE UNDER THIS NEW SYSTEM, BUT EXPECT TO SOON. WE WILL KEEP USLO AND DEPARTMENT INFORMED. SHOESMITH

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